

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a telecommunication system comprising message centers (MMSC1 to MMSC4) which provide subscribers with message services, subscriber registers (HLR1 to HLR4) to maintain subscriber information, and a signaling network (SS7) connected to the subscriber registers. When a number portability service is in use, to route messages the system further comprises: a signaling gateway (SGW) which, in response to a received subscriber identifier, performs an interrogation to the subscriber registers (HLR1 to HLR4) through the signaling network to identify a network of a subscriber corresponding to the particular subscriber identifier, and a gateway (MMSGW) which relays messages between the message centers (MMSC1 to MMSC4) and which, to route the message to a correct message center, performs an interrogation to the signaling gateway (SGW) in response to receiving a message including a receiver's subscriber identifier to identify a network of a subscriber corresponding to the subscriber identifier, and sends the message to a message center (MMSC4) of the identified network.

Figure 1